

INFORMA ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Guatemala

SUBJECT Possible Coup Against Arevalo Government

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1. A plan is underway to kidnap or assassinate President Arevalo and Deputy Victor Manuel Giordani, Guatemalan President of Congress and first designate. It is believed that Col. Francisco Arana, Chief of the Armed Forces, would then be forced to assume power and call upon liberal rather than radical elements of the country to support him.
2. Another more far-reaching plot is rumored which would include Col. Arana among those to be overthrown. This movement is reportedly being planned by the supporters of ex-President Ubico, and will be headed by General Alfredo Castaneda, who has been in exile for the past six months. Gen. Castaneda has left his hiding place, and his present whereabouts are unknown. He is thought to have received arms from outside sources. According to the plans, liberal factions of the army and opposition would take over the government and set up a new regime, probably under Adrian Recinos.

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